

MANAGING NATIVE VEGETATION - FACT SHEET 5

CONSTRUCT A FIRE ACCESS TRACK



Government
of South Australia

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.



Cut down the impact of bushfires

Managing native vegetation to construct a fire access track

Bushfire is a real risk for all South Australians and you can't predict when a bushfire will strike. But your chances of survival are increased if you are prepared.

The State Government, SA Country Fire Service (SA CFS), the Native Vegetation Council and Local Councils are working together to protect life and property, while still recognising the value of native vegetation.

What can I do without approval?

You can undertake any activity that is compliant with an approved bushfire prevention plan.

Activities to construct a fire access track that do not fall under a bushfire prevention plan need to be approved by the SA CFS.

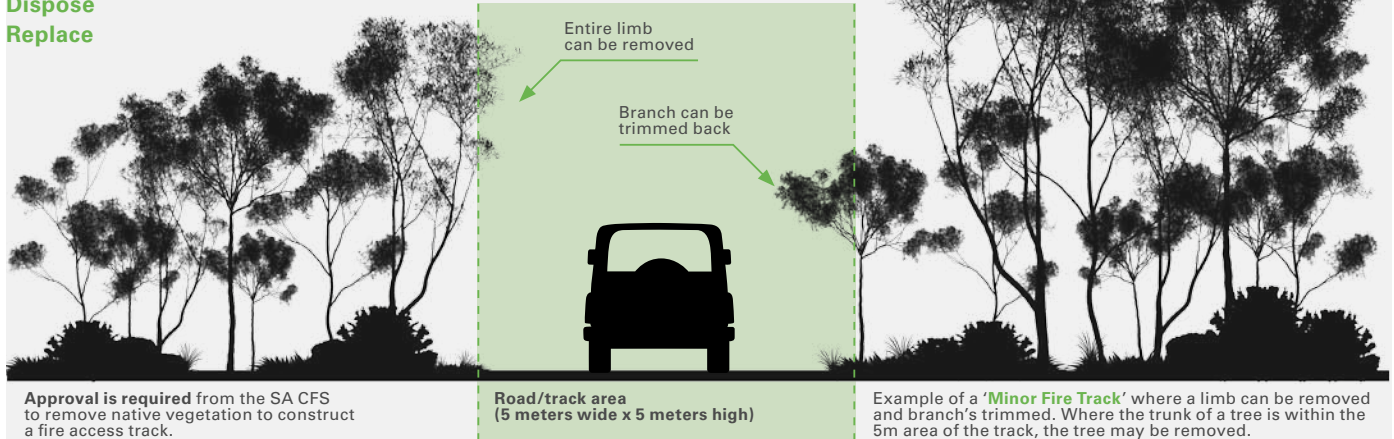
Things you will need to consider:

If you want to remove or modify a Significant Tree you will need approval as outlined in the *Development Regulations 2008*. You need to identify if you have a Significant Tree and contact your Local Council for further information on how to apply.

Are you Bushfire Ready?

Actions you can take today:

Reduce
Remove
Dispose
Replace



Approval is required from the SA CFS to remove native vegetation to construct a fire access track.

Road/track area
(5 meters wide x 5 meters high)

Example of a 'Minor Fire Track' where a limb can be removed and branch's trimmed. Where the trunk of a tree is within the 5m area of the track, the tree may be removed.

What activities do I need approval for?

You can remove native vegetation to construct a fire access track. Fire access tracks differ from 'standard vehicle access tracks' because they are constructed and maintained to allow the safe passage of firefighting vehicles.

Fire access tracks should be constructed according to Appendix 3 of 'A guide for managing Native Vegetation to reduce the impact of Bushfire (2009)' and any relevant approved bushfire prevention plan for the area. You will need to apply to the SA CFS for approval and can download the 'Guide' and application form from the SA CFS website (www.cfs.sa.gov.au).

You may want to conduct a prescribed burn to construct a fire access track on your property. To do so you will need to apply to the SA CFS for a permit to burn using the application form (see www.cfs.sa.gov.au). You can use the same application form to apply for approval for your fire access track construction works and to apply for a permit to undertake a prescribed burn.

In considering your application the SA CFS will look at ways to manage bushfire risks whilst minimising the impacts on native plants, animals and their ecosystems.

If you want more information refer to *A guide for managing Native Vegetation to reduce the impact of Bushfire (2009)* (download a copy from www.cfs.sa.gov.au).

Fire access track means a track (up to 15m in width) constructed for use by vehicles undertaking firefighting activities.

Significant Tree means any native or non-native tree that has a trunk with a circumference of 2m or more at a point 1m above natural ground level. In the case of trees with multiple trunks, the total circumference of the trunks must be 2m or more and the average circumference of each trunk must be 62.5cm or more.

If you want to find out more, *A guide for managing Native Vegetation to reduce the impact of Bushfire (2009)* can be downloaded at www.cfs.sa.gov.au or as individual information sheets.

South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) In an emergency, please call 000.

Headquarters: (08) 8463 4200

Region 1 – Southern Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island: (08) 8391 1866

Region 2 – Northern Mount Lofty Ranges and Yorke Peninsula: (08) 8522 6088

Region 3 – Murraylands and Riverland: (08) 8532 6800

Region 4 – Flinders, Mid North and Pastoral Areas: (08) 8642 2399

Region 5 – South East: (08) 8762 2311

Region 6 – Eyre Peninsula and West Coast: (08) 8682 4266

Web: www.cfs.sa.gov.au

Native Vegetation Council

Telephone: (08) 8303 9733

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IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND OUT IF THE ACTIONS YOU ARE PROPOSING TO UNDERTAKE REQUIRE APPROVAL UNDER OTHER LEGISLATION.